

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
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INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA
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AMEMBASSY TUNIS

S E C R E T LONDON 06393

EXDIS

DEPT FOR NEA/ARP

TUNIS FOR EAGLETON AT FSI

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, YS, ASEC
SUBJECT: PDRY DEMAND FOR US EMBASSY BUILDING IN ADEN:
FURTHER THOUGHTS

REF: LONDON 6262

1. AN ADDITIONAL MOTIVATION FOR THE PDRY MOVE TO
SEIZE OUR BUILDING IN ADEN (REFTEL) HAS JUST BEEN
GIVEN US BY A FORMER US PRINCIPAL OFFICER IN ADEN
TRANSITING LONDON: THE BUILDING HAS AN EXCELLENT
VIEW OF THE HARBOR. ITS OCCUPANTS WOULD THEREFORE
BE ABLE TO WATCH THE PERVASIVE SOVIET NAVAL ACTIVITY
IN THE HARBOR.

2. WE ASSUME, LIKE THE BRITISH CHARGE IN ADEN,
THAT IT WILL BE DIFFICULT OR IMPOSSIBLE TO PREVENT
THE PDRY GOVERNMENT FROM TAKING OVER THE BUILDING

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(JUST AS WE WERE UNABLE TO PREVENT THE IRAQI GOVT.
FROM TAKING OVER OUR BUILDING IN BAGHDAD). ON
THIS ASSUMPTION, WE RECOMMEND THAT WE TAKE THE
FOLLOWING STEPS:

3. A) THROUGH THE BRITISH, STRONGLY OBJECT TO THE
PDRY DEMAND, CITING APPROPRIATE PASSAGES OF THE

VIENNA CONVENTION ON DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS, AND NOTING THAT THE PDRY MOVE IS INCONSISTENT WITH THE PDRY REQUEST TO RESUME DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH US WHICH WAS PUBLICLY TRANSMITTED TO THE USG THROUGH CONGRESSMAN FINDLEY.

B) IF IT BECOMES CLEAR THAT WE CANNOT PREVENT THE PDRY GRAB, WE SHOULD REFUSE AN OFFER OF A SUBSTITUTE BUILDING (WHICH WOULD CERTAINLY BE PRE-BUGGED), AND INSIST INSTEAD ON THE ALLOCATION OF AN ACCEPTABLE SUBSTITUTE SITE ON WHICH WE WOULD ERECT OUR OWN BUILDING IN THE EVENT THAT WE EVENTUALLY RESUME RELATIONS.

C) MEANWHILE WE SHOULD INSIST ON AS LARGE A CASH REIMBURSEMENT FOR OUR PRESENT BUILDING AS WE CAN NEGOTIATE. THE BRITISH COULD NO DOUBT GIVE US SUGGESTIONS ON HOW WE COULD OBTAIN AN OBJECTIVE, INTERNATIONALLY VALID ASSESSMENT OF THE PRESENT VALUE OF OUR BUILDING.

D) ANY REIMBURSEMENT SO OBTAINED COULD BE DEVOTED TO THE COSTS OF A NEW US BUILDING IF AND WHEN WE SHOULD RESUME RELATIONS.

E) MEANWHILE, WE COULD START CONTINGENCY PLANNING FOR
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FUTURE BUILDING. IF WE DO RETURN AND BUILD, WE SHOULD AVOID HAVING A LOCAL PDRY CONTRACTOR DO THE JOB, SINCE IN THE CONSTRUCTION PROCESS OBVIOUSLY IT WOULD BE RIDDLED WITH THE MOST MODERN BUGGING DEVICES WHICH THE EAST GERMAN SECURITY TEAM COULD SUPPLY TO PDRY. THE SOLUTION WOULD BE TO SHIP OUT FROM THE US PRE-CAST CONCRETE MODULE UNITS OF THE SORT PIONEERED BY THE SINAI SUPPORT MISSION FOR OUR SINAI FIELD MISSION. NAVY SEABEES, WHO WERE INVOLVED IN CONSTRUCTION WORK ON OUR BUILDING IN ADEN IN THE PRE-1967 PERIOD, COULD BE CALLED ON AGAIN FOR HELP IN CONSTRUCTION, WEARING CIVILIAN CLOTHES.

BREWSTER

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